

making it hard to select points for organized trapping parties for mass trapping. This may suggest that this migratory route exploited by the cranes is rather safe and may help in the survival of the species.

It is not possible on the basis of the presently available information to decide whether the selection of this route is made at random by birds in the different Russian breeding populations, or whether some definite populations pass through this route, leaving the other populations to use the migratory route located in the north. Further ringing data may yield interesting information regarding this aspect of the biology of species of cranes. It may yield some positive clue regarding the exploitation of this route by the endangered Siberian Crane, if concentrated efforts are taken to determine the extent of exploita-

tion of this migration route by the Siberian Cranes, which may be a considerably safer route for the few individuals of the species now left for future generations.

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10. UNUSUAL INTERACTIONS FOR FOOD

While watching raptors in Keoladeo National Park during the 1985-86 winter, an interesting behaviour among other birds was observed. Around the end of January, painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) young, though fully fledged and out of their nests were still dependent on adults for food. The young in large groups on bare mounds would clamour noisily to be fed on seeing any adult alighting nearby with a begging display that involves deep bowing undulations of the head with wings wide-spread. Egrets on noticing this would hopefully alight nearby waiting patiently ready to pirate or snatch a morsel with a lightning dash during the actual regurgitating feeding act should the opportunity arise. They would then move position from one repleted young to another that was being fed. This behaviour was consistently observed as long as the young continued to be fed. On other occasions egrets were observed to fly in from neighbouring blocks solely on hearing painted stork young begging for food. I have seen egrets flying over from B block to L block, this behaviour being activated on hearing the young's begging vocal display as they could not have witnessed the food

bringing arrivals of the adult painted storks, who were observed to delay and sometimes even interrupt feeding to drive off nearby egrets. This behaviour appears odd in the light that the egrets were rarely successful in grabbing a beakfull. They were almost totally dependent on their own hunting ability and yet persisted with this activity. As soon as feeding was over they would promptly leave the immediate area.

On another occasion a painted stork adult was chased and driven up again into the air by a Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) just as it was approaching its young clicking its mandibles. The blacknecked stork followed it persistently for about 15 seconds till it disgorged a few small fish meant for its young. The Blacknecked Stork was then rejoined by its mate and as they flew across the bund separating L.W. from B block they were determinedly mobbed and chased by the pirated painted stork.

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